

**MARAD Update**

Official Journal of the Maritime Administration

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From the Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator—

As the Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator, I am pleased to be writing this column for the August edition of the *MARAD Update* in what I hope will be the first of many opportunities for me to connect to our MARAD family, as well as our many constituents outside of MARAD proper.

Beginning with this edition, I hope you will notice some changes to the *MARAD Update* as the staff and I work to make the publication of every edition of this newsletter an eagerly awaited event. To that end, I have decided to present a “door prize” to the first 10 readers to come to the front office (Room 7206 in Headquarters) and tell Peggy Vandeventer that you saw this offer in the *Update*. If you’re not located at Headquarters, call Peggy at (202) 366-5823 or e-mail her at peggy.vandeventer@dot.gov. If you don’t know who Peggy is,

now is a good time to come to the front office and meet her. (She is the deputy maritime administrator’s executive assistant.) A bonus prize will be given to the first person who can tell Peggy which shipyard was recently nominated to the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the “largest pizza order.”

I also wish to personally invite you to submit any questions, comments or concerns you would like me to address in this column in future issues of the *MARAD Update* by submitting them to ella.thomas@dot.gov.

As a final thought, I would like to take this opportunity, along with the rest of the maritime community, to extend my congratulations to Sean Connaughton as the newly confirmed Maritime Administrator. I look forward to working with Sean upon his arrival at MARAD.

Julie A. Nelson

Big Stories Lurk in MARAD's Data Files

By Russ Byington
Chief Economist

There is a wealth of hidden treasures in the marine transportation data resources, which are available in MARAD's Office of Data and Economic Analysis. All of the detailed data files have marine transportation stories. For example:

OPA-90 Double-Hull Stories: In 2005, 79 percent of U.S. tanker calls at U.S. ports had double hulls, up from 51 percent five years ago. As of year-end 2005, world orders for double-hull tankers stood at 25 percent of the existing fleet. If just 80 percent of these replace single-hull tankers, the double hulling of the world tanker fleet will be complete by 2008, two years ahead of the OPA-90 deadline with obvious environmental benefits. See *OPA-related statistics* at www.marad.dot.gov/marad_statistics; and/or *Clarksons Fleets* and *U.S. Vessel Calls* detailed data files.



OPA 90 compliant double-hull tanker.

Photo courtesy of Maersk

Containership Stories: Containership capacity calling at U.S. ports increased by 33 percent over the last five years. About half of the increase has taken place over the last two years as carriers replaced round-the-world and tricontinental services with traditional end-to-end services; for example, Far East/U.S. West Coast and Europe/U.S. East Coast instead of Far East/Europe/U.S. services. The advantages are faster transits, higher frequency of calls and more ship capacity dedicated to U.S. trades. See *U.S. Vessel Calls* at www.marad.dot.gov/marad_statistics, and/or *U.S. Vessel Calls* and *MDS-Transmodal Containerships* detail files.

Great Lakes Stories: The U.S.-flag Great Lakes carriers move coal, iron ore, limestone and other bulk materials between Great Lakes ports. In the fall of 2005, MARAD's Office of Data and Economic Analysis surveyed the carriers to learn more about Great Lakes bulk trades and the critical issues faced by the carriers. The survey documents one of the most important issues facing Great Lakes carriers: insufficient water depths at load and discharge ports. As a result, the carriers must light-load cargoes at a rate of about 3,000 tons per foot of lost draft. They can lose as much as 4.5 feet of draft or 13,500 cargo tons per call at major discharge ports. See *Survey of Great Lakes Operators* at www.marad.dot.gov/marad_statistics.

For more information on MARAD's Office of Data and Economic Analysis data resources, visit www.marad.dot.gov/marad_statistics and/or call Sheila Brown at (202) 366-5178 to sign up for Monday-morning tutorials.

MARAD's Office of Data and Economic Analysis Information Resources Pyramid

Web Site Indicators (Most Summarized)

Survey Publications

Statistical Publications

Survey Data

Detailed Data Files* (Most Detailed)

*The detailed data files are documented in the publication, *Marine Transportation Data Resources, 2005*.

New Administrative Services Organization Finding Its Sea Legs

**Story and Photo by Thom Robinson
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs**

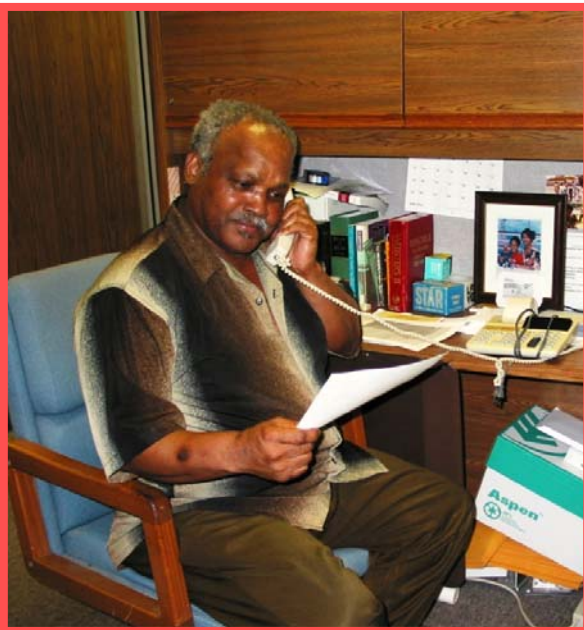
Though less than a year old, MARAD's new Administrative Services Organization (ASO) and its 19 employees continue to make good headway toward a goal of providing professional administrative support and excellent customer service to a wide range of offices within the agency.

ASO-hired personnel possess a broad range of administrative and office skills and are matrixed into several headquarters branches and divisions to give MARAD's managers the additional manpower they

need to accomplish administrative services, general administration services and human resources support.

Administrative services from the ASO include tracking time and attendance, travel requests and vouchers, security, filing systems, office reception, and data administration using proprietary software systems. ASO's general administration services include equipment and facilities maintenance, mail services, supply management, procurement and public affairs support. Human resources support provided by the ASO includes processing SF-52's (request for personnel action), position classification, staffing and recruitment, retirement and/or benefits counseling and processing and learning and development.

Program Manager Joy Douglas is pleased with the progress and cooperation she has so far received from MARAD's upper management and with the performance of her staff and subordinates. "With every day of ASO-provided service that passes and as ASO continues to give our customers what they need to help them accomplish their daily missions, step by step, the viability, credibility and reliability of the ASO and its people become more and more apparent to all," she said.



ASO staff member Pernel Faltz assists a customer with a MA-50 requisition form.

Welcome Aboard —

New MARAD Hires During the Months of June and July

Quintin Ellis, Headquarters
Ronald Parker, Headquarters
Rand Pixa, Headquarters

Christopher Trogan, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Raymond Mathewson, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Nicholas Winowich, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Gregory Sullivan, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Pat Thomas

Clearinghouse for Information on Merchant Mariner Benefits

Story and Photo By Ella Thomas
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

American merchant mariners have a gem when it comes to Pat Thomas of MARAD's Office of Sealift Support. She has a treasure chest of information on merchant marine veteran benefits, medals, decorations and what she doesn't have she can find.



Pat Thomas, Office of Sealift Support, handles all inquiries regarding merchant mariner benefits.

While MARAD was still an agency within the Commerce Department in the late '70s, Pat was the secretary to the director of maritime manpower. The staff person handling merchant marine medals was retiring. She wanted

someone to take it over. She raced by Pat's desk and dropped a stack of unopened letters requesting merchant marine medals and decorations for World War II service. Almost 30 years later, she is still handling these type of requests. Pat handles a myriad of written and oral inquiries regarding merchant marine veteran benefits, awards, decorations and prescription benefits assistance. Pat receives a tremendous amount of correspondence from congressional offices with constituents wanting to know their benefits.

According to Pat, "Since merchant mariners who served in World War II were finally awarded veteran status in 1988, there has been a tremendous increase in requests from merchant mariners who want to obtain discharge certificates and to find if their survivors may be eligible for certain benefits and services from the Veterans Administration."

The brave men and women who carried "beans, bandages and bullets" to troops during World War II are the only group of merchant mariners recognized as veterans. U.S. merchant mariners who served through the Korean War, Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom are not recognized as veterans and will not receive benefits; they're only recognized as civilians. When Pat receives inquiries regarding merchant marine veteran benefits, Pat refers them to the appropriate Department of Veterans Affairs office to assist them. MARAD doesn't administer benefits to merchant mariners.

For the past several years, Pat has noticed that baby boomers are now inquiring what benefits their fathers who served in World War II are entitled to.

When someone is trying to locate a merchant mariner, Pat refers them to the U.S. Coast Guard, which maintains a database of all past and current U.S. merchant mariners. The U.S. Coast Guard also maintains the casualty lists from World War II. Pat has received phone calls and letters over the years from people searching for long-lost loved ones who served in the merchant marine.

Pat's altruism, warm personality and smiling phone voice have earned her quite a fan club over the years. She has had many merchant marine veterans come visit her in her office and she stays in touch with quite a few by phone and mail.

Pat has been receiving a lot of inquiries from the Canadian and Australian governments to see if their merchant marine veterans, indeed, sailed with the U.S. merchant marine during times of war so they can receive paid pensions and recognition from their governments for what they did for our government. Pat also refers those inquiries to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Today, Operation Iraqi Freedom merchant mariners are receiving medals. Pat processes all that paperwork, too.

More on the Operation Iraqi Freedom medals in a future issue of MARAD Update.

MARAD Update

The **MARAD Update** is published by the Maritime Administration's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. This publication is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. For more information or to submit questions or concerns, telephone (202) 366-5807, visit the MARAD website at www.marad.dot.gov, or e-mail pao.marad@dot.gov.

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